

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 L-02 /053 W

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R 181959Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1101

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, GY

SUBJECT: ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL CONTINUES AMIDST REPORTS SUGAR  
STRIKE TO END

REF: GEORGETOWN 0505

1. SUMMARY: DURING WEEK OF APRIL 14, MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SEVEN  
WEEK OLD SUGAR WORKERS STRIKE INCLUDE FIRST BUSINESS SESSIONS OF  
ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL, CONTINUED EFFORTS TO REACH INTERIM  
AGREEMENT, AND SLIGHT DECLINE IN BACK TO WORK TREND. FACED WITH  
RETURN TO JOBS BY SOME WORKERS AND INABILITY OF STRIKING WORKERS TO  
HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER, GAWU APPEARS READY TO CALL OFF STRIKE THIS  
WEEKEND IF INTERIM AWARD IS MADE. EVEN IF STRIKE ENDS, SERIOUS UN-  
RESOLVED PROBLEMS REMAIN AND COULD BE SOURCE OF FURTHER DISRUPTION.  
END SUMMARY.

2. DURING WEEK OF APRIL 14, ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL, HEADED BY JUSTICE  
VICTOR CRANE, CONTINUED ITS EFFORTS TO SETTLE SEVEN WEEK OLD  
STRIKE IN SUGAR INDUSTRY. TRIBUNAL IS CONSIDERING WAGES AND  
WORKING CONDITIONS IN SUGAR INDUSTRY FOR 1974-75. BUSINESS SESSIONS  
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OF TRIBUNAL BEGAN APRIL 14 WHEN, AS PREDICTED (REFTEL), GUYANA SUGAR

PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (GSPA) OFFERED INTERIM PAY INCREASE TO MAN-POWER CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (MPCA), RECOGNIZED UNION FOR FIELD AND FACTORY WORKERS. HOWEVER, MPCA PRESIDENT RICHARD ISHMAEL REJECTED PACKAGE OFFER OF FIVE PERCENT INTERIM WAGE INCREASE FOR 1975 AND GUYANESE DOLS 3,000,000 ADVANCE ON FINAL WAGE PAYOUT AS TOO LITTLE. TRIBUNAL THEN BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY MPCA WHILE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF INTERIM INCREASE SHIFTED TO MEETINGS BETWEEN TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC), ACTING ON BEHALF OF MPCA, MINISTER OF LAOR WINSLOW CARRINGTON, AND GSPA. BY FRIDAY APRIL 18, MPCA'S PRESENTATION TO TRIBUNAL WAS STILL NOT COMPLETE. TALKS ARE ALSO CONTINUING BETWEEN TUC, CARRINGTON, AND GSPA, AND ANOTHER INTERIM WAGE INCREASE MAY BE OFFERED AT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR EVENING OF APRIL 18.

3. MEANWHILE, ON SUGAR ESTATES, BACK TO WORK TEND VISIBLE LAST WEEK WAS LESS EVIDENT THIS WEEK. SUGAR INDUSTRY SOURCE ESTIMATES WEEKLY PRODUCTION FOR APRIL 11-18 AT 3,000 TONS, A DECLINE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK. STRIKING WORKERS ARE UNDER LEADERSHIP OF MPCA'S UNRECOGNIZED RIVAL, GUYANA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION (GAWU), LABOR ARM OF PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), WHICH HAS REFUSED TO APPEAR BEFORE ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL. SOLIDARITY STRIKE BY CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL, CLERICAL AND INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES (NAACIE) AND FAILURE TO REACH INTERIM AGREEMENT APPEAR TO HAVE SLOWED, BUT NOT ENTIRELY REVERSED, MOVEMENT OF WORKERS BACK TO JOBS.

4. FACED WITH RETURN OF SOME WORKERS TO JOBS AND INABILITY OF THOSE STRIKING WORKERS TO HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER, GAWU APPEARS READY TO CALL OFF STRIKE. GAWU HONORARY LEADER AND PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN ADMITTED TO AMB THAT WORKERS BADLY NEEDED MONEY FROM INTERIM WAGE SETTLEMENT. MPCA PRESIDENT ISHMAEL TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD LEARNED FROM "HIGHEST SOURCE" (I.E. PM BURNHAM) THAT GAWU WOULD TELL WORKERS TO RETURN TO WORK ON MONDAY, APRIL 21. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ALSO GAVE AMB SIMILAR REPORT BASED ON INFORMATION FROM "HIGHEST SOURCE".

5. COMMENT: WHILE SITUATION IS STILL UNCERTAIN, IT NOW APPEARS THAT IF INTERIM WAGE INCREASE IS ANNOUNCED GAWU MAY GIVE BACK TO WORK CALL THIS WEEKEND. HOWEVER, PROBLEMS WILL REMAIN. SERIOUS GAP STILL EXISTS BETWEEN WORKER EXPECTATIONS AND WHAT INDUSTRY IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILLING TO PAY, AND ANY RETURN OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE MIGHT ONLY BE TEMPORARY.  
KREBS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUGAR, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR ARBITRATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 GEORGETOWN 0505  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL CONTINUES AMIDST REPORTS SUGAR STRIKE TO END  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, EPAP, GY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006